

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Work Session on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Emergency Services Building.

- MEMBERS PRESENT: Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman Charles Woodard, Vice Chairman
 Timothy J. Corprew Joseph W. Hoffler
 T. Kyle Jones James W. Ward
- MEMBERS ABSENT: None
- OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Heath, County Manager Tracy Mathews, Finance Officer
 Hackney High, County Attorney

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order. Commissioner Woodard gave the invocation and Chairman Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

BUDGET PRESENTATION: SOCIAL SERVICES

At 7:00 p.m., Susan Chaney, Social Services Director, presented the FY 2023-2024 Budget for Board consideration.

BUDGET PRESENTATION: BOARD OF EDUCATION

After Ms. Chaney presented the Social Services Budget, Superintendent Tanya Turner introduced Rube Blanchard, Finance Officer, who presented the FY 2023-2024 Budget to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Deputy Clerk to the Board

**WORK SESSION
May 15, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners met in a regular Work Session on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Perquimans County Library located at 514 S. Church Street, Hertford, NC 27944.

- MEMBERS PRESENT: Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman Joseph W. Hoffler
 Timothy J. Corprew James W. Ward
 T. Kyle Jones
- MEMBERS ABSENT: Charles Woodard, Vice Chairman
- OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Heath, County Manager Mary P. Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board
 Hackney High, County Attorney

After Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order, Commissioner Hoffler gave the invocation and they recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The following matters were discussed.

REQUEST FOR LIQUOR BY THE DRINK PRIVILEGES BY CRAWFISH SHACK

County Manager Heath reminded the Board that the Hurdle's came to the May 1, 2023 meeting and requested the Board's help in obtaining their liquor by the drink privileges for their business, Crawfish Shack. The Board asked County Attorney High to research the question and bring information back to the Board. County Attorney High presented the information that he had found. Mr. High said that his research was two-fold – reaching out to the State Agency and doing some personal research before he contacted the State Agency. During his research, a couple of items came up that he wanted to let the Board be aware of. The first one is that there is a lack of statutory and regulation guidance in regard to issuing permits in situations like the Crawfish Shack. It also became obvious to Mr. High that the ABC laws in North Carolina have not kept up to speed with the popularity of event venues. The first research he performed was to confirm that our local knowledge was on a firm footing and he did confirm some things. Perquimans County does not own or operate have an ABC Board or own or operate an ABC Store. The Town of Hertford does have an ABC Board and operates an ABC Store. The reason for this distinction is important is because, the Crawfish Shack is located in Perquimans County and, in order for them to obtain a mixed drink permit, the County would have to have an ABC Board and operate an ABC Store. This is one hurdle that the Hurdle's have to jump over in order to obtain their mixed drink permit. To get to the referendum, the County would have to have an ABC store and an ABC board. He will have to do more research on this item to determine if there are any ways that we can obtain the permit through other means than a referendum. The way the law states now there are very few ways to work around it. The venues are allowed to serve liquor but cannot sell liquor. Therefore, if you own a place like Crawfish Shack, the host of the event would obtain their own permit that would allow them to have and serve liquor. There two different kinds of permits: (1) special occasion permit – allows for someone to get the permit for multiple events and (2) one-time event – allows for someone to get the permit for one event. It is Mr. High's understanding from County Manager Heath that the Hurdle's were looking more to being able to sell liquor at their location. These permits will only allow someone else to apply for the permit for the event and allow the host to have the liquor to serve not to sell. This is where we stand at this point. Mr. High will continue to talk with the State Agency to see what the County could do to help the Hurdle's with their permit process. They are supposed to have a phone conference next week. Commissioner Corprew asked if we could have a joint board with the Town of Hertford. Mr. High said that there is a process where we can merge and

that would be one of the ways to work around it. After some discussion, County Attorney High will continue to research the matter and talk with the State ABC Agency. Once he has completed his research, he will inform the Board of his recommendation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion or business, Chairman Nelson adjourned the Work Session at 7:30 p.m.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Clerk to the Board
